



STATE OF ALABAMA

ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION
725 MONROE STREET
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130
PHONE: 832-6621



ALABAMA REGISTER OF LANDMARKS AND HERITAGE
Nomination Form

COUNTY Washington

NAME: Present St. Stephens Masonic Lodge Historic Washington County Courthouse
now - St. Stephens Courthouse

LOCATION: Street and Number Washington County 34
Town (Give directions if rural) St. Stephens

\*A MAP WITH THE LANDMARK MARKED MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THIS FORM\*

CATEGORY: Building (X) Structure ( ) Object ( ) Site ( ) District ( )

USE: Present Masonic Lodge Historic County Courthouse

OWNERSHIP: Public ( ) Private (X)

Owner's Name St. Stephens Masonic Lodge #81

Mailing Address St. Stephens, Alabama

INTEGRITY: Original Site (X) Moved ( ) When?

From where? (Give details in significance.)

CONDITIONS: Excellent ( ) Good ( ) Fair (X) Ruins ( )

THREATS: No (X) Yes ( ) By What?

RESTORATION WORK: Being considered (X) Underway ( ) Completed ( ) Not planned ( )

SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT: Open land ( ) Woodland ( ) Scattered buildings (X)
High building density ( ) Commercial (X) Industrial ( )
Residential (X) Rural ( )

Acreage 2

For all categories other than a district and object give a site plan with a North arrow.
Show related buildings.

For a district give a verbal boundary description and attach a sketch map of the district.



DESCRIPTION (Continued)

Roof Type: (Gable, Gambrel, Mansard, Flat, Hipped, Combination)

Gable

Roof Covering: (Wood shingle, Asphalt, Tile, Metal, Slate)

Metal

Roof Trim: (Cornices, bargeboard, brackets, etc.)

Boxed cornice and return

Porches: Front (type and description) Recessed full width porch, with four plank  
post supporting roof; stairs lead straight to stoop and door at second level.

Rear (type and description) None

Side (type and description) None

Doors: Main entrance (location, description)

Single door located at southeast corner of front.

Other entrances (location, description)

Single door located on second floor above main entrance.

Windows: Types and number of each floor of facade

One 6/6 double hung sash windows on each floor

Types and number per floor for sides and rear

Six 6/6 double hung sash windows on each floor on each side.

Two 6/6 double hung sash windows at rear.

Interior: Describe mantels, stairways, wainscoting, plasterwork and any unusual features.

Floors original wide heart pine, ceiling heart pine. Walls are vertical beaded, wainscoting with horizontal beaded above chair rail.

Other: Use this space to describe any additions, alterations, outbuildings or other features of the structure and its surroundings.

About 1942, the present exterior was added. Originally, the front had a full width porch with four hexagon shaped columns supporting the balcony reached by either of two dog-leg stairways with landings. The balcony was enclosed by a plain banister connecting four hexagon shaped columns.

On an additional sheet make a sketch of the floor plan of the building, showing dimensions if possible.

THIS IS NOT REQUIRED!



DESCRIPTION (Continued)

- STRUCTURE: On a separate sheet of paper give a complete as possible verbal description of the structure. (See examples)
- OBJECT: On a separate sheet of paper give a complete as possible verbal description of the object. (See examples)
- SITE: On a separate sheet of paper give the present description of the site and how the site is believed to have looked during its period of importance.
- DISTRICT: On a separate sheet of paper give a general description of the district. Also needed is a numbered list of the structures in the district corresponding to the sketch map. This listing should include a name for the structure, a date of construction, a brief description, a statement of why the structure is significant, if it is.

\*A MAP WITH THE LANDMARK MARKED AND PHOTOGRAPHS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THIS FORM\*

Map: A U.S. Geological Survey Map is preferred, but if you are unable to obtain one a county highway map may be used.

Photographs: Black and white, glossy finish, 5 x 7, or 8 x 10, is preferred.

FORM PREPARED BY

Name Theodore B. Pearson Date July 31, 1978  
Address #1 St. Stephens Road Telephone (205) 246-3776  
Town Leroy, Alabama 36548  
Organization Washington County Museum Board

For Alabama Historical Commission use only

STAFF COMMENTS:

MAP REFERENCE: MAP Clarke County Highway Map  
U. T. M. Reference Not Available --- ---  
Zone Easting Northing

Thematic Category \_\_\_\_\_

Added to ALABAMA REGISTER \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL REGISTER Potential



ST. STEPHENS MASONIC LODGE  
WASHINGTON COUNTY

Significance

The St. Stephens Masonic Lodge was built in 1853 by the Washington County Commission as the Courthouse. Legislative Act #243, 11/23/1853, authorized the location of the County Seat at this site and appointed Commissioners to let a contract on the building and to receive the building when completed. Act #244, 1/19/1854, authorized the Commissioners to "draw their warrant upon the county treasury for the expenses necessarily incurred in building the said courthouse".

The building was used by the county for 59 years, until Chatom was made the County Seat in 1907. At that time the St. Stephens Masonic Lodge No. 81 purchased the building for the county and has used it as a Masonic meeting place since that time.

The St. Stephens Masonic Lodge Building is the oldest surviving courthouse structure in Washington County.







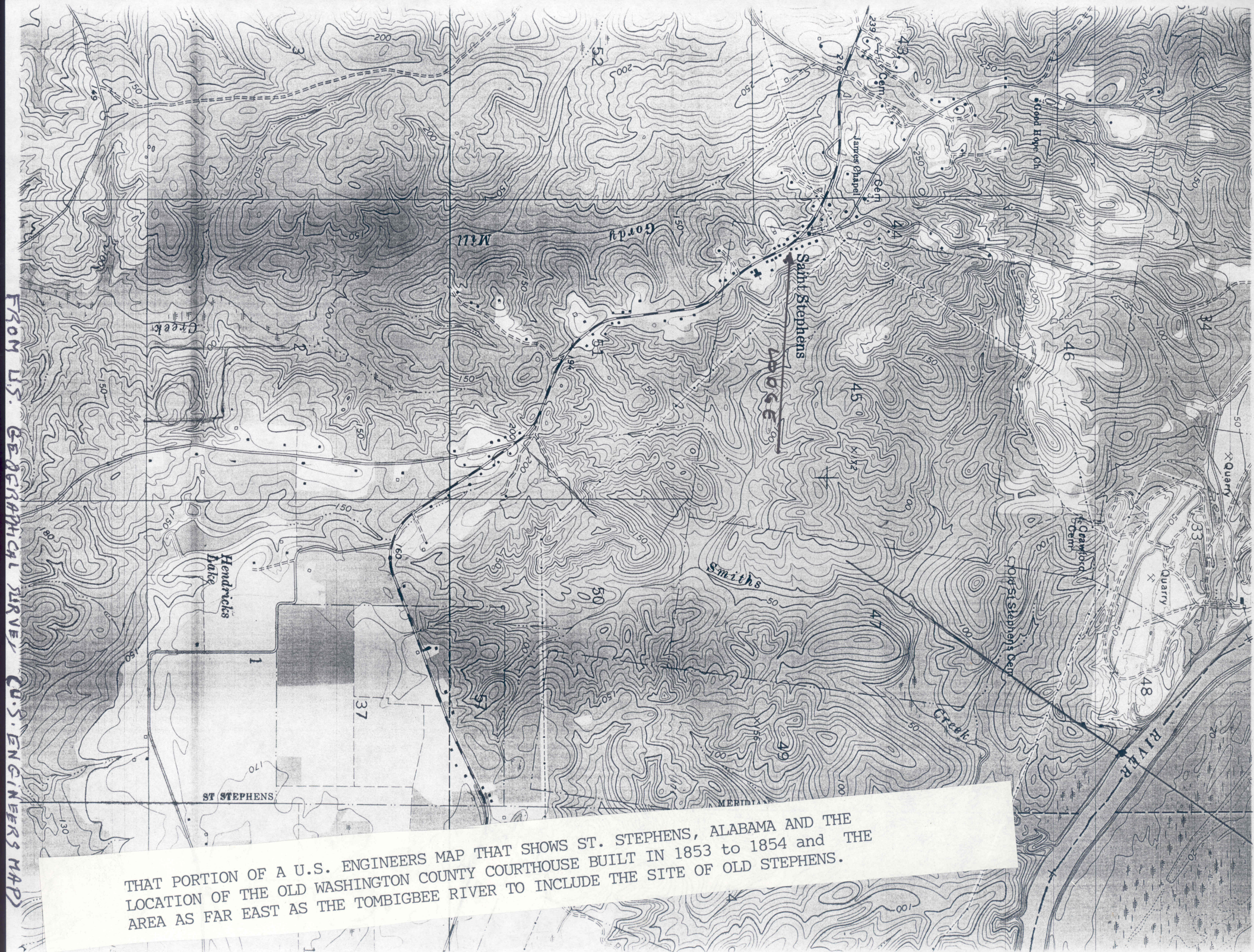
St. Stephens Masonic Lodge, Wash



T 6 N  
600,000  
31° 37' 30"  
570,000 T 7 N  
31° 30' 00"  
420,000 T 6 N



FROM U.S. GEOGRAPHICAL SURVEY (U.S. ENGINEERS MAP)



THAT PORTION OF A U.S. ENGINEERS MAP THAT SHOWS ST. STEPHENS, ALABAMA AND THE LOCATION OF THE OLD WASHINGTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE BUILT IN 1853 TO 1854 AND THE AREA AS FAR EAST AS THE TOMBIGBEE RIVER TO INCLUDE THE SITE OF OLD STEPHENS.





ST. STEPHEN  
1830



















